

SNC Reference Number  
(enter if previously assigned)

080018

4.

**PROJECT SUMMARY****County:** Applies to all counties in the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Area**Applicant:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Habitat Restoration Division, Sacramento, CA**Project Title:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy/US Fish and Wildlife Service Partnership Coordinator**PROJECT GOAL**

To establish a partnership between the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in which an SNC/FWS Partnership Coordinator would coordinate and facilitate on-the-ground fish and wildlife habitat improvement projects with private landowners and funding partners to help SNC fulfill its Program Areas and FWS achieve its goals of restoring and enhancing habitats for fish and wildlife through securing partnerships, funding, and project regulatory compliance on behalf of SNC.

**PROJECT SCOPE**

The FWS has seven Fish and Wildlife Biologists stationed throughout the SNC Region whose geographic areas of focus are fully or partly within the SNC Region (Figure 1, page 19). With funding and technical assistance provided through the FWS's Partners for Fish and Wildlife (Partners) Program, FWS biologists have project funding and are working with a variety of government and private partners to develop and implement fish and wildlife habitat improvement projects on private lands throughout the SNC Region by offering financial and technical assistance to landowners and funding partners. FWS assistance to landowners and partners is extremely valuable in putting habitat improvements on the ground, but staff time and expertise are a limiting factor. Some biologists are new to FWS, without the experience in developing partnerships that comes with time, and need assistance in seeking out project funds and partners, locating project funding, and building the personal capacity to accomplish those tasks. A Partnership Coordinator would be invaluable to assist FWS field biologists in developing those opportunities, seeking out projects and landowners, and building public support for projects. The Coordinator would serve that need for improved coordination, as well as to help with regulatory compliance including NEPA, CEQA, DFG, and other environmental regulations that can slow project implementation. The SNC/FWS Partnership Coordinator would act as a liaison between FWS field biologists and SNC to work on behalf of SNC to develop projects and achieve compliance so that applications for projects can be submitted to SNC that are compliant and ready to go. FWS would provide matching funds to accomplish the project goal.

**LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

Included as Appendix 1 are letters of support from the Pit RCD, the Devil's Gate/Swauger Creek Fire Safe Council, and the Modoc National Wildlife Refuge.

## SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES  | TIMELINE          |
|--|-------------------|
| <i>All identified tasks would be performed by the SNC/FWS Partnership Coordinator</i>  |                   |
| Develop, complete, and sign SNC Grant Agreement  | December 1, 2008  |
| Coordinate with FWS field biologists. Establish SNC program.   | March 1, 2009     |
| Outreach to SNC/FWS project funding partners.  | May 1, 2009       |
| Assist FWS field personnel to find projects, obtain funding, and achieve State and Federal regulatory compliance for projects.   | June 1, 2009      |
| Provide SNC with first 6-month progress report.  | June 1, 2009      |
| First SNC-supported on-the-ground projects initiated.  | July 1, 2009      |
| Provide SNC with first annual progress report.   | December 30, 2009 |
| Continue to assist FWS field personnel to find projects, obtain funding, and achieve regulatory compliance for projects.   | June 1, 2010      |
| Provide SNC with second 6-month progress report.   | June 1, 2010      |
| First SNC-supported on-the-ground projects completed. New SNC-supported projects initiated.  | November 30, 2010 |
| Provide SNC with second annual progress report.  | December 30, 2010 |
| Continue to assist FWS field personnel to find projects, obtain funding, and achieve regulatory compliance for projects.   | June 1, 2011      |
| Provide SNC with third 6-month progress report.  | June 1, 2011      |
| Hold SNC field tour of projects, both completed and in progress  | July 1, 2011      |
| SNC-supported on-the-ground projects completed. New SNC projects initiated. SNC-supported projects will continue to be implemented beyond the term of the grant agreement. | November 30, 2011 |
| Provide SNC with final report.   | December 30, 2011 |

## SNC PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES  | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|--|-------------------|
| SNC/FWS Partnership Coordinator for 3 years  | \$ 65,900         |
| SNC/FWS Partnership Coordinator 15% overhead   | \$ 4,900          |
| Travel costs   | \$ 4,800          |
| Reporting – 6 progress reports and 1 final report, including time needed to document performance measures. | \$ 2,000          |
| <b>SNC Total Project Cost</b>  | <b>\$ 77,600</b>  |
| FWS contracting cost to receive and process grants at 6%   | \$ 4,700          |
| <b>SNC GRANT TOTAL</b>   | <b>\$ 82,300</b>  |